

sign on the way into town. Sandy is proud of how the roosters have united her hometown. "It is amazing how many people participated in the project," Heyman said. "The roosters really brought people together."

Additional art can be found in the Prairie Arts store, an arts and crafts mall that attracts visitors from across the country. A local group of artists and craftsmen organized the business, which displays intricate wheat weavings, beautiful quilts, handcrafted wood items and much more. The arts and crafts mall is one of more than 20 businesses that call the Burns area home.

Local residents developed a new memorial park, which includes a pavilion, picnic tables, walking path, horseshoe pit, basketball goal and restroom. In addition, volunteers installed new city street signs, made improvements to the local ball field and constructed a new gazebo.

Since 1954, families in Burns have hosted international students in their homes over the Thanksgiving holiday. The program was initiated by Betty Grimwood and Bonnie Lohrentz, who thought it would be great if foreign students could experience rural, American culture. In recognition of how thoroughly the community embraced the idea, Burns received a Distinguished Service Award from the Institute of International Education in 1959. The award was presented by then Vice President Richard Nixon. Over the last 52 years, more than 60 local families have served as student hosts. In excess of 500 people representing 110 countries have visited Burns. Today, local resident Tom Grimwood carries on his mother's international legacy. Tom and his wife Nedy teach Spanish and Italian at American companies. They also welcome foreign students into their home every Thanksgiving. Tom is proud of the reputation that the program has developed over the years. "One of our students told us that Burns is the smallest town with the biggest diplomatic service in the world," Grimwood said.

In her 21 years as a resident, Mayor Mary Glenn has witnessed first hand how her community pulls together in order to achieve a goal. "All of our accomplishments are made possible because of a tremendous volunteer effort," Glenn said.

Stuhlsatz knows that her hometown is special. "The people of Burns are awesome," Stuhlsatz said. "They are like a family and whether they still live here or not, they work together to keep Burns a place you want to come home to."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Burns are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create such opportunities. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Burns is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER G. MEHAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and a great leader in my community back home. Dr. Peter G. Mehas is retiring after 44 years in education as Superintendent of the Fresno County Schools. Dr. Mehas dedicated his life to ensuring our children thrive both in and out of the classroom. As an educator, administrator, public servant, community leader, father, husband, and grandfather, Dr. Mehas gives nothing less than his absolute best.

A small glimpse into the long list of Dr. Mehas's achievements reveals his unwavering dedication to education. Not often enough are educators recognized for their unselfish devotion to bettering the future of California's children. These teachers and administrators put in countless hours at school, at home and on their weekends. They deserve our greatest respect and gratitude for their efforts.

Throughout his distinguished career Dr. Mehas served as an instructor at Roosevelt High School and taught at Edison High School before moving to Clovis Unified School District. He worked his way up from assistant principal at Clovis High to principal, then assistant superintendent and finally associate superintendent.

From 1984 to 1987, Mehas established and served as the legislative advocate in Sacramento and Washington, DC, for the State Center Community College District, Fresno County and Modoc County Offices of Education and a consortium of 36 school districts throughout Central California.

In 1987, Mehas was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as his Chief Advisor on public education in the state, as well as all private and independent schools and universities.

Dr. Mehas was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 and subsequently served three more terms. Being a superintendent is never an easy job, but to do the job for 16 years, and do the job as well as Dr. Mehas has done, is remarkable. We will miss his invaluable contributions.

In September 1991, President George Bush appointed Dr. Mehas to a 17-member advisory commission to implement his executive order on Latino education, a task Dr. Mehas was thrilled to have been given and excelled at. Later, Dr. Mehas was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Community College Board of Governors.

Most recently, Dr. Mehas was appointed, in 2005, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, to serve on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence.

As you can see, Dr. Mehas has committed the majority of his adult life to advancing education. Thanks in large part to Dr. Mehas, the children of the San Joaquin Valley are better prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Throughout the years, I have also had the privilege of working with Dr. Mehas on a variety of issues. Pete, we wish you well, as you embark on a new phase of your life. You may be retiring, but your contributions to education will endure.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we find ourselves once again on disturbingly familiar ground as Israel continues to defend itself against armed attacks by terrorist groups targeting civilian populations. As a sovereign nation, Israel has the right and, more importantly, the responsibility to defend its borders from acts of terrorism and threats to its national security. The War on Terror continues to combat terrorist organizations and their State sponsors, and as such, Hamas and Hezbollah must be held accountable for their destructive actions.

The recent unprovoked rocket attacks in Israel and the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers are obvious acts of war against the democratic nation by Hezbollah and Hamas. The U.S. has been a strong leader in the War on Terror and these offensive acts of violence are no exception in the mission to stop terrorist activities around the world. Increased international pressure to call for an end to terrorism must be a priority, as an unstable Middle East can have dire consequences to the entire international community, as confirmed by the extensive evacuations currently taking place in Lebanon.

The Governments of Syria and Iran, as supporters of both Hamas and Hezbollah in their terror activities, must be held accountable for the violence taking place in Israel to protect the innocent populations of both Israel and Lebanon that find themselves in the middle of continued violence. Additionally, the Lebanese Government must call for an end to all terrorist violence and do everything possible to expel Hezbollah from within its borders. These terrorist organizations cannot be ignored and Lebanon must protect its sovereignty in the presence of any terrorist activity by taking decisive action.

I commend Israel for minimizing civilian casualties by focusing defensive attacks on infrastructures and weapons facilities, intentionally avoiding towns and villages. In the face of such violence, Israel continues to follow democratic and civilized principles of war in protecting its people and Country. I continue to support the right of Israel to vigorously defend itself in response to attacks of violence that threaten the existence of the Israeli people and pray for the end of violence and a peaceful outcome in the Middle East.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of a former colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend.

Tom Manton was the son of immigrant farmers from the west of Ireland—Thomas, of